

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior claims:

1. (Currently amended) An assembly for providing a temporary safety space within an elevator hoistway wherein upward or downward movement of a car or a counterweight along guide rails is prevented, the assembly comprising:

engagement members provided on the guide rail; and

a stop bar selectively moveable between a use position and a storage position, the stop bar having opposing ends that bear against the engagement members in the use position to create the temporary safety space, the engagement members being one of the group consisting of: elements arranged to permanently secure the guide rail to the hoistway, holes ~~a perimeter of a hole~~ provided in the guide rail, and elements temporarily fixed to the guide rail ~~to create the temporary safety space~~.
2. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein each end of the stop bar has two support struts with a channel defined therebetween, the support struts being engageable with the guide rail so that the channel partially accommodates the guide rail.
3. (Withdrawn) An assembly according to claim 2, wherein the engagement members are holes in the guide rail, the support struts being configured to engage in the holes in the guide rail.

4. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the stop bar further comprises a resilient layer positioned on a side of the stop bar adjacent to the car or counterweight so to absorb impact force when the car or counterweight initially bears against the stop bar.

5. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, and further comprising a fixing element to secure the stop bar to one of the car and the counterweight.

6. (Withdrawn) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the stop bar is a two-piece, telescopic construction comprising a compression spring arranged to bias the opposing ends apart.

7. (Withdrawn) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the stop bar is a two-piece, telescopic construction having a screw pin arranged to lock the two-piece construction together.

8. (Withdrawn) An assembly according to claim 6, wherein the stop bar has a screw pin arranged to lock the two-piece construction together.

9. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the engagement members are bolts and nuts that permanently secure the guide rail to the hoistway.

10. (Withdrawn) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the engagement members are bolts that are temporarily securable to the guide rail for the purpose of engaging with the stop bar.

11. (Currently amended) A method for creating a temporary safety space within an elevator hoistway by preventing upward or downward movement of a car or counterweight along guide rails, the method comprising:

a) switching a control system to inspection mode;

b) providing engagement means on the guide rail, the engagement means being one of the group consisting of: elements that used to permanently secure the guide rail to the hoistway, holes a perimeter of a hole provided in the guide rail or elements temporarily fixed to the guide rail for creating the temporary safety space; and

c) selectively installing a stop bar having opposing ends which bear against the engagement means in a use position to create the temporary safety space.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the step of installing the stop bar includes automatically and simultaneously switching the control system to inspection mode.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of securing the stop bar to the car or counterweight.